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Let us altogether strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by performing all of His Commands and avoiding all of His

prohibitions. With firm imaan (faith), may we attain the pleasure of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, hence becoming His successful slaves in this world and the Hereafter.

On this noble day, I will discuss upon on a khutbah titled



The Islamic teachings brought by Rasulullah is based upon divine revelation from Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. After Rasulullah's death, the noble work of da'wah (calling to Islam) was

continued by the Companions, the taabi'een (successors of the Companions), the taabi' at-taabi'een (successors of the taabi'een), and then the scholars after them.

They explored the entire world to ensure that the ni'mah (bounty) of imaan and Islam are enjoyed by all mankind.

However, now the general public including a handful of Muslims are brazen in disputing the role of the 'ulamaa' (scholars). Moreover, they even stooped low to insult and belittle the dignity of

the scholars. They even rejected the scholarly interpretation by erudite classical scholars. For them, it is sufficient with the intellect ('aql) alone, and that it is an individual's right to

interpret al-Qur'an himself.

Not stopping there, they stated that the role of scholars does not exist in Islam. Furthermore,

proponents of the antihadeeth sect had stated that the very concept of 'ulamaa' was taken from Hinduism and Christianity.

Who is actually deemed as an 'ulamaa'? What are the characteristics for the one considered as 'ulamaa? According to Kamus Dewan (reputed Malay dictionary), 'ulamaa' means a person

who is ahli (an expert) in Islamic sciences. The expertise of a particular scholar is acknowledged by other scholars of equivalent status or higher level in knowledge.

Rasulullah also had explained on who is to be deemed as 'ulamaa'. As mentioned in the hadeeth of Abu ad-Dardaa' radiyAllaahu 'anh, Rasulullah stated:

"Indeed the scholars are the heirs of the Prophets, and the Prophets do not leave behind Dinar or Dirham. The only legacy of the scholars is knowledge, so whoever takes from it, then he has indeed taken a great share."

(at-Tirmidhi)

Based on this hadeeth, it clearly indicates that the word 'ulamaa' was explicitly mentioned by the Prophet . This proves the existence of scholars and they do have roles in Islam,

not cooked up and duplicated from other religions.

Indeed, one who is deemed as an *'ulamaa'* is a person who has

mastered various sciences within Islam such as tawheed, tafseer, hadeeth, fiqh, tasawwuf, and others. For example, the four imaams of the madhaahib (schools of thought), namely

al-Imaam Abu Haneefah, al-Imaam Maalik, al-Imaam Ahmad bin Hanbal, and al-Imaam ash-Shaafi'i, including al-Imaam Abu Hasan al-Ash'ari and al-Imaam al-Ghazzaali whom

were prominent scholars.

They were true scholars who feared Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verse 28 of soorah Faatir that was recited in the beginning of the khutbah:

"... Only those fear Allah, from among His servants, who have knowledge..." An 'ulamaa' is measured based on his knowledge and his level of taqwa. His knowledge is based on the primary sources in Islam, which are al-Qur'an, as-Sunnah, ijmaa' (consensus), and

qiyaas (deductive analogy). A learned scholar will not speak purely based on his desire, intellect, and emotions.

In Islam, the 'ulamaa' has a lofty status for the responsibility that they shoulder is enormous. Their very task was inherited from the prophets. They are burdened with the duty

of explaining what is good and bad, what is truth and falsehood. **Everything conveyed** must be based on the teachings of al-Qur'an and as-Sunnah.

Islam teaches its adherents to respect and observe proper adab (etiquette) when interacting with the scholars. The 'ulamaa' are respected and revered not because

of their holiness and infallibility (ma'soom), but due to their level of knowledge. Among the adab that must be observed are:

- 1. Accepting their advice and criticism in matters of obedience.
- 2. Accompanying the scholars so as to increase one's knowledge and attaining barakah (blessings).

- 3. Avoid the attitude of being argumentative, disputing, or opposing the *'ulamaa'*.
- 4. Avoid from uttering words that are offensive.
- 5. To speak well and rebuke with wisdom.

It must be realized that knowledge originates from Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. It will be conveyed to His sincere slaves. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala will take back the knowledge that was

lent to His slaves through the death of the scholars. In the end, mankind will take as their reference the ignorant ones, leading them to misguidance. Rasulullah had mentioned such matter

that will be taking place, as in the narration of 'Abdullah bin 'Amr radiyAllaahu 'anhuma, where he said:

"Verily, Allah does not take away the knowledge by taking it away from the people, but takes it away by the death of the religious learned men till when none of them remains, people will

take as their leaders ignorant persons who when consulted will give their verdict without knowledge. So they will go astray and will lead the people astray."

(al-Bukhaari)

To end the khutbah today, I would like to remind all of us to derive lessons from the following matters:

1. The Muslim ummah must have certainty that accompanying and honoring the scholars will increase their imaan in Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

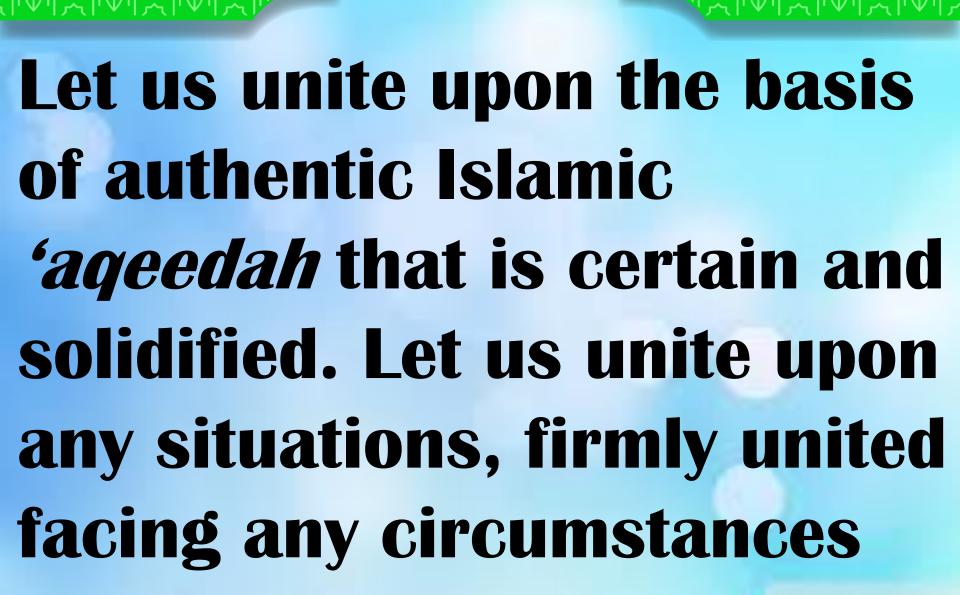
2. The Muslim ummah must seek knowledge through a teacher, by studying with distinguished scholars.

3. It is waajib (obligatory) upon the Muslim ummah to observe proper adab when interacting with the scholars.

"And whoever opposes the Messenger after guidance has become clear to him and follows other than the way of the believers - We will give him what he has taken and drive him into Hell, and evil it is as a destination."

(an-Nisaa' 4:115)

THE SECOND KHUTBAH



and enemy's threat, whether hidden or apparent. The unity of the Muslim ummah is the foundational strength towards the nurturing of

Khayra Ummah (the best nation). Muslims are entitled to have differing views, what more in worldly matters, but the Muslim ummah must continue to

unite in *fikrah* (thoughts) and understanding according to the guidelines of the *kalimah* (phrase)

שׁ אוֹץ אוֹץ אוֹץ, affirmative principles within al-Qur'an

and *al-Hadeeth*, as well as sound Islamic brotherhood principles.

In our effort to break the chain of Covid-19, it necessitates every masjid attendee to remain disciplined and that it is waajib (obligatory) to abide

by the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that has been outlined by JAIS (Selangor Islamic Religious Department) specifically in performing the

wudoo' (ablution) at home, bringing one's own prayer mat, wearing the face mask while at the Masjid and Surau, and practicing social distancing.

Those that are unhealthy or unwell are prohibited from performing salaah in the Masjid and Surau.

O Allah, You are the Lord that is All Mighty, we are grateful to You for having bestowed upon us rahmah and blessings upon this state that continues to

prosper and progress, and that its residents remain united, under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.

O Allah, protect us from calamities and pandemic such as Covid-19.

